THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 19. SATURDAY, JULY 24TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Friday, July 23rd, 8 p.m.—Piggott St.—Mr. Mackinlay.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St. and Grundy St.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Miss Somers.
3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.
Sunday, July 25th, 11 a.m.—"Salmon & Ball."
3.30 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Monday, July 26th, 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road.
8 p.m.—'Peacock'—Chair: Mr. J. C. Rowe
8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Mr. Everett.
Tuesday, July 27th, 8 p.m.—Salmon Lane—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mr. C. Gray.
3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane.
Wednesday, July 28th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Miss Feek.
3 p.m.—Ford Road—Mr. Everett.
Thursday, July 29th, 8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Rev. C. A. Wills.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Walshe.
9 p.m.—Beckton Road—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard's St.
Friday, July 30th, 8 p.m.—Piggott St.
8 p.m.—Ford Rd.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Beckton Road.
3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Thompson.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 8 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Mondays and Fridays 8 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the arble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The season of infantile diarrhœa will soon be upon us, when babies, especially babies of necessitous mothers, who are themselves undernourished, and cannot afford to buy good fresh milk, will be falling dangerously ill.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?
We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

Mothers and children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway Street, Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's Street, Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Road, Canning Town,

THE WORKERS' PROCESSION TO PARLIAMENT, JULY 20th.

THE LONG MARCH FROM THE EAST END.

The people are working late in the East End now in the factories where Government work is done, and all the workers find that they must toil longer and harder than ever before to keep the wolf from the door. The sweated women homeworkers who make soldiers' clothes and other things in the crowded little East End houses, can scarcely spare the time from their work to run to the corner to do their shopping.

But on Tuesday night, July 20th, the Old Ford Road was alive with hurrying people when the E.L.F.S. Procession was forming up. The workers were coming straight from the factory to march with the deputation, or to give the marchers a cheer. They were going to the House of Commons to demand safeguards for the workers, equal pay for men and women, in order that women may not be forced in to blackleg the men and bring the wages down for all; to say that food and fuel prices must be kept down, or that wages and prices shall rise together; to declare against forced labour for private employers; and to urge that working women must have the protection of the vote.

Procession beginning to assemble in Old Ford Road, Bow.

Promptly at 8.30 the Procession started marching, with cheering, and waving, and enthusiasm.

"I would go with you if I could," many women called to us. "I wish I could go, but I am too old, I am tired walking even this far to see you off."

But thousands came, some in the six-deep ranks, others hurrying on the pavement, or filling up the roadway between "because my boots are so bad and the stones in the road hurt my feet," or because past remembrances of detectives make us like best to keep altogether in a crowd.

Many of the women were carrying babies, some had children in perambulators. The colour bearer took us along so fast that many could not keep up and were left behind.

Already wearied after a long factory day, that began at 7 or 8 a.m., many had come straight from their work, to face the long march, without getting a bite of food. Too many of the married women had swollen feet and poor health to contend with, but they had made up their minds to march right on to the very end.

There were many banners, and some were very hard to manage, because of the strong wind, but the women carried them with pride. The colours shone out finely in the evening sunshine, and everyone there cared deeply and intensely for the vital needs that we were marching for.

One woman told us that she had gone to join the Saturday procession, but she had bought a DREADNOUGHT from someone selling on the Embankment, and on reading it, had left those ranks, feeling that her place was in the workers' march on Tuesday night. She told us that she worked at Dingwall's making packing cases from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 12s. a week, on work that was previously done by a man for 35s.

Another said that she got only 3d. for sewing 54 buttons on men's trousers, and that she had little children to maintain.

These tales made the objects of the Procession very vivid; it was not as though the crowd was urging a point that they had heard of—no, it was the sweated woman protesting by her live presence that there should be an end of sweating, and all the evils that are caused by it. She has no representative in Parliament to know, or want to know, how she lives, so now she was on her way there, to exhibit both herself and her wrongs to the world that knows so little of the sweated workers' life.

In Green Street a small detachment of the Bow Procession, accompanied by a cow boys' shrill drum and fife band, attracted great attention. Many people in the street, hearing the object of the Procession, joined in, and by the time Mile End Road was reached quite a large crowd had massed together. There, whilst waiting to meet the Bow branch, the leaders addressed a large crowd, who cheered them loudly, and then joined, to march on to Parliament, as the splendid line of marchers from Old Ford Road loomed in the distance, its banners looking remarkably imposing in the dimly-lighted streets.

It was a long way, and some of us were very tired; and the roads seemed very hard.

It was dark before we got to Gardiner's Corner, where the Poplar section of the Procession was waiting to fall in behind. Here there were great crowds assembled—girls from

(Continued on page 287, col. 1).

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. SNOWDEN writes:

I have long appreciated the energy with which you have put forward the claim that the cost of living should be taken into account in considering wages.

I am very glad to send a word of encouragement to the brave women who are doing such splendid work under such difficulties. The fight is awfully hard I know, but you are doing magnificent service.

Mr. J. R. CLYNES writes:

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—I attach great importance to the subject of your letter, and shall be glad if you can advance the claim by means of a deputation.

Mr. R. W. OUTHWAITE writes:

I wish your organisation success in any endeavour to combat the growth of Prussianism in our midst. A state of war is the reactionary's opportunity as he can cloak his attack on liberty so as to make it appear inspired by patriotic zeal. The first fruit of our war for freedom in the Transvaal was the establishment of a slave system there, and the process may be repeated here with women as the slave gang.

The City has taken good care to extort satisfactory terms for its cash, and to avoid compulsion in the shape of a levy. I do not see why the flesh and blood of further East should not demand equal consideration.

I am, yours faithfully,
R. W. OUTHWAITE.

P.S.—It occurs to me to add that I write in the assurance that the Kaiser is not furthering your democratic endeavours, nor the Sultan of Turkey inspiring your efforts for the maintenance of the status of women.

Mr. T. RICHARDSON writes:

I will go up to the city and look out for your deputation to the House of Commons. Should the House have risen I will come over to Westminster Hall as suggested. There is great urgency and justice in your case and I wish you success.

Mr. J. W. PRATT writes:

I am in full sympathy with the objects you set forth in your letter, and I am sure that you are doing a great service to the women's cause by pointedly drawing attention to them at this juncture.

Mr. R. C. LAMBERT writes:

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and I am very glad to find that you are prepared to protest against this policy of compulsion which so many people want to see put in force by the Government.

As you are aware, I have long been in favour of granting women the vote, although I fear it is impossible for private members to press this while the War lasts.

It seems that the Government pledge of non-controversial measures being barred is only to apply where the proposals are inconvenient. They do not object to introducing Bills like the National Register Bill, however controversial they may be, and anyone who raises his voice in protest is howled down and described as a pro-German!

The strike in S. Wales shows how utterly futile it is to try to force people in this country. Our whole tradition is in favour of voluntary work, and you will never defeat Prussianism by adopting Prussian methods.

(Continued on page 287, col. 2)

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

EAST LONDON BRANCHES.

BOW BRANCH meets at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. M. Lansbury.

BROMLEY BRANCH meets at 53 St. Leonard's Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. McCheyne.

POPLAR BRANCH meets at 20 Railway Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Drake.

WEST HAM BRANCH meets at 55 Fife Road, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Millo.

EAST HAM BRANCH meets at Essex Hall, Wakefield Street, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Thompson.

WALTHAMSTOW BRANCH meets at William Morris Hall, 3 p.m., every Thursday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Bush.

Sunday Meetings,

JULY 25th.

VICTORIA PARK, 3.30 p.m.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Mrs. BOUVIER

DOCK GATES, 8 p.m.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

AGENTS:
INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.
Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 19.—Sat. July 24th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

WE MUST PERSEVERE.

What made the Suffragette movement? For what cause did we defy conventions and go to prison?

It was because we were sick at heart for the miseries of the people; because we wished to free our sisters and brothers from the slavery of want; because we believed the votelessness of women to be a drag on the wheels of progress, contributing towards their social and industrial bondage, and proving a source of weakness to all the vast masses of people, who, struggling for existence in the labour market and because of their comparative lack of political knowledge and organisation, cheated in the political field, yet by their toil build up and sustain the fabric of our State.

We wanted women to stand the comrades and equals of men, both legally and industrially, in order that side by side with men, they might not carry on the world in its accustomed way, but build it up into something new and infinitely better than its present self.

It was for a world where human beings should count more than commerce, a world without poverty and exploitation, and the needless deaths of little children that we were longing. When we went into prison we found there our sisters stunted and spoilt by the harsh and unequal organisation of our social life.

We were consumed with yearning to help our sisters, to call on each one of them to come and join our ranks. To those who were happy and unfortunate we said: "Come out from your homes, for you are needed"; to those who were heavy with the burden of life we said: "Pool your experience with ours and let us hope for a better future dawn in your factory and slum."

It was for this that we toiled for the Suffragette movement; and the old struggle is before us still. Now, with the War at its height, the poorest are being exploited to pile up extra War profits, the women are being sweated and used as the instruments to blackleg men and undermine the general standard of wages.

The Government and the great Party press lent their aid in the getting up of a demonstration for War Service for Women, and Government Registers, compiled for national purposes, were placed at the disposal of the organisers of a political group for this purpose.

Long columns in the newspapers were used to advertise it, and Mr. Lloyd George spoke to the processionists from a platform specially erected on Government premises. But, even so, the Procession was not so large as many held by women fighting against heavy odds.

And now that the pageantry is over, and the bands have ceased to play, what do Mr. Lloyd George's words to those Saturday processionists amount to?

He said that the offer made by the deputation that women should replace men in industry during the War would be accepted gradually and in time. This probably means that the women will be taken on, as at present, when, and as, the manufacturers find it profitable to engage them, without any forcing by the Government.

In regard to the vital point as to the wages at which women are to be brought in to replace men, Mr. Lloyd George's reply was altogether unsatisfactory. It means that unless we can produce a change of heart in the Government the employment of women in munition factories at wages of from 8s. to 14s. or 15s. a week is to continue, and that the trades that were good trades, as trades go, for men, are to be turned into sweated industries for women.

Men, women and children by the million will suffer for the Government's betrayal of the woman worker, unless we can fight the equal pay battle through to victory.

The difficulties of the struggle are very great. Thousands of women are unemployed, the National Register forms will be brought round to them, as to others. These forms ask for volunteers to do Government work. The women hear that War Service is needed and *they* are needing bread. Naturally they will reply that they are willing to give War Service. But, once they have done so, their liberty of action will have disappeared, and they will be obliged to work when and where they are told, however low the wage.

Therefore, we must urge all women, if they fill up the forms at all, to state most clearly that they will not undertake any kind of work, except under clearly defined safeguards.

But, it must be remembered that, should the National Register be but the prelude to compulsory industrial service, as seems probable, the demand for safeguards would be in vain, for all whom the authorities might choose to select for service would then be taken to work by force, whether they would or no, and in spite of any conditions that they might have laid down.

There are many people who intend to refuse to submit to compulsory industrial service, should it come, because they hold the present conditions of labour to be grossly unjust, and hope that by their abstention they will be able to induce the Government to insist on fairer terms. There are others who would refuse to submit to compulsion for conscientious reasons. Many of both these classes are willing to fill up the National Register forms, giving the particulars asked for, and stating that they decline to do Government work, except under certain conditions.

But those who intend to fill up the forms must remember that, if compulsion comes, and the National Register forms have been filled up without protest, the hardships of compulsion will inevitably fall on the shoulders of those least able to protect themselves. The struggle against compulsion, if any struggle is made, will fall to the people who are without influence and unknown, for the Government will not seek to forcibly introduce into factories at sweated wages, either men or women, who have means and influence, or who are known as politicians and agitators.

This is a point that needs most thorough consideration and deep and earnest thought.

I believe in collectivism, in the collective action of a free people agreeing on equal terms to subordinate the separate individual wishes for the benefit of the whole.

But in the present arrangements of the Government, under which already the poorest and most helpless workers are being more firmly bound by a system of infamous sweating, I see not the collective action of free people for the common welfare, but the enslavement of the many for the profit of the few.

We must gird ourselves anew for the struggle. We have the old fight still to make.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A CORRECTION.

Dear Friends,

Many of you in East London have asked me whether I sent you a letter inviting you to walk in a procession on Saturday, July 17th.

The answer is "No." I did not send you that letter, or ask you to walk in that procession. That letter was signed E. Pankhurst. I shall never write to you without signing my christian name as I do now.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Please remember this.

E.L.F.S. and the NATIONAL REGISTER.

At a General Meeting of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, the question of the National Register was discussed.

It was decided without dissent that those members who felt that they could conscientiously sign the Register should answer question 9 by saying:—

> I should not think it right to do Government work unless I have a guarantee that I shall be paid the standard rate of wages hitherto paid for the kind of work that I am asked to undertake, with the addition of any war bonus or increase in wages that may be granted owing to the war, and that if the work is unskilled and the wages hitherto paid for it have been low, I shall not be engaged to do it at a lower wage than 5d. an hour. I consider that women's labour should be safeguarded by the possession of the Parliamentary Vote.
>
> Provided also that I am to be employed directly by the Government and not by a contractor or sub-contractor.

The National Register forms are to be distributed at every dwelling-house in the course of the six days immediately preceding August 15th, and collected on the days immediately following. The questions to be answered are:—

1.—Age last birthday.
2.—If born abroad and not British, state nationality.
3.—State whether single, married, or widower (or widow).
4.—How many children are dependent on you? (a) Under 15 years; (b) over 15 years.
5.—How many other persons are dependent on you, excluding employees? (a) Wholly dependent; (b) partially dependent.
6.—Profession or occupation. State fully the particular kind of work done, and the material worked or dealt in (if any).
7.—Name, business, and business address of employer. (If not working for an employer, write "none.")
8.—Are you employed for or under any Government department? Say "Yes," "No," or "Do not know."
9.—(a) Are you skilled in any work other than that upon which you are at present employed, and if so what? (b) Are you able and willing to undertake such work?

WAR PENSIONS.

On the motion for the third reading of the Naval and Military War Pensions Bill, Mr. McKenna moved to re-commit the measure to a Committee of the whole House, because some members of the Committee of the National Relief Fund objected to handing over any of the fund to be administered by any other body, and he said that he thought he ought not to press them. It therefore became necessary to reconstitute the Statutory Committee on Pensions, and to omit two representatives of the National Relief Fund and two representatives of the Soldier's Families Association, through which the National Relief Fund spent the money intended for soldiers and sailors.

The motion for recommittal was agreed to; the House went into Committee and the Bill was read a third time.

We are glad that this has happened, because it means that soldiers and sailors and their relatives will have State pensions instead of being recipients of private charity.

At the same time we cannot fail to notice that the desires of a handful of wealthy and highly placed people on the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee are considered of so much importance by the Government, that it is willing to oblige them by turning upside down its own long prepared plans at the eleventh hour. The National Relief Fund Committee, and the Committee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association have called "check mate," and the Government has obediently given way.

The Prince of Wales's Fund and the S.S.F.A. still desire representation on the local Committees, in order that they may continue to boss the soldiers and sailors and their families.

We strongly object to this, and demand that elected representatives of the people concerned shall take the places originally intended for these non-representative outside bodies.

SOLDIERS' FATHER STARVES.

A white-bearded, frail-looking man named Timothy Buckley, aged 72, wearing a shabby black coat and silk hat, was sentenced at West London recently to one day's imprisonment for stealing two loaves from a baker's barrow. When arrested he said: "I took them because I was hungry." He ate ravenously some bread and butter given to him at the police-station.

Buckley told the magistrate that he had four sons in the Army, one of whom had been wounded. A police sergeant described him as a perfectly respectable man.

What allowance is he getting from the War Office? This is likely to be the first of many cases, as the soldiers' parents are most meanly dealt with.

THE COAL STRIKE.

It is generally agreed that the miners have secured practically all that they asked and have scored a great victory. As we understand it, the men demanded that at the expiration of the five years agreement under which they have been working, they should have certain increases of wages to meet the increased cost of living. The coal owners refused to negotiate, and a strike was declared.

The coal owners have been making an increased profit of 6s. 1d. per ton since the war. The men asked that they should share that increased profit to the extent of 4½d. per ton.

When the miners struck work there was an outcry that they were unpatriotic. But now the strike has ended in the fair and logical way, by the Government declaring that the miners' demands are just, and that most of them must be conceded; the very people who raged against the strikers, praise Mr. Lloyd George's tact.

The moral is of course, "be strong and fear not, and you will get what you are entitled to. If you are weak, however righteous, you will get nothing."

Send 4s. 4d. to become a Subscriber to the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."

(Continued from front page.)

the Poplar biscuit and provision factories were amongst the marchers; dockers and gas workers with the red regalia of their Trade Union; members of the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives & Relatives, also wearing their own regalia; and mounted police galloping about.

The Suffragette Crusaders from South-East London, with their gold and purple banners, joined in behind our own gorgeous purple-white-and-green-and-red.

At the Gaiety Theatre, according to regulations, the Procession broke up—banners were furled and bands were stopped. The elected deputation had already hurried forward to the House of Commons.

AT WESTMINSTER.

It was now half-past ten and many dispersed for home, thinking that they had done their part, but a large number pressed on still to the Central Hall, Westminster, which they filled to overflowing.

Our treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, in a speech full of encouragement for the worker, and of scathing sarcasm for the "half of the world that does not know how the other half lives," set before the listeners the aims of the demonstration. Her eloquent words were loudly applauded.

Meanwhile, the deputation had been met by a number of friendly Members of Parliament, who had brought out to them the Chief Whip, Mr. Gulland, and impressed upon him the determination of the E.L.F.S. and its friends to secure an interview with the Munitions Minister to urge upon him the need for remedying the women workers present appalling grievances and providing against the dangers which are looming ahead for both men and women.

Mrs. Griffiths, who makes babies' shoes at 11d. per dozen pairs, drove home her arguments by the actual display of her work. Mr. Gulland seemed startled at the low price paid for this skilled work.

Whilst Dr. Tchaykovsky was still speaking, the deputation arrived at the Central Hall. They were welcomed with turbulent enthusiasm.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst explained what had taken place and reiterated the general determination to persevere.

Mrs. Drake, chief of the Poplar branch, then said that "she is always in a raging temper when she goes to the House of Commons." Mrs. Drake is a practical woman and no doubt the effect of all the loss of time and money by our Government, brought home to her by a visit to the House, excites her just anger.

Mr. R. C. Lambert, M.P., who was present with Sir William Byles and Mr. Chancellor, then said:—

"I do hope you will insist upon being received by Mr. Lloyd George or some important member of the Government. If Mr. Lloyd George can find time to address a body of women who are urging him, among other things, to adopt the principle of compulsion; surely in this freedom loving country, when we are fighting a life and death struggle against militarism and against Prussianism, surely he can hardly refuse to receive a deputation which is urging him to prevent Prussianism in this country, and to prevent the principle of compulsion being introduced into our system.

"My friends, I realise as much as you realise the importance of this crisis in which we find ourselves, and I want to say to you, with all the feeling I can put into my words, that I wish you Godspeed in this crusade."

A resolution expressing the objects of the demonstration was enthusiastically carried.

Many people had to walk home to the East End after it was over, but they feel it was worth while.

And now we must continue the fight.

"I said: 'Freedom is not dead!' and somebody shouted 'Where is she?' and I said: 'She's gently sleeping. If you call her she'll wake.'"—*"Mother Jones" in the Colorado Miners' Friend.*

HELP THE NEXT DEMONSTRATION.

(Continued from front page, col. 4.)

So far as your objects are concerned, I agree that where women do men's work they should be paid a man's wage, and steps ought at once to be taken to prevent the people being exploited in the interests of those who are making huge profits out of the War.

I fear you cannot prevent prices going up somewhat. It is one of the penalties every nation has to pay for going to war, and every class must expect to suffer, but I am sure that more might be done than is being done.

It seems to me that the Government and nation are in danger of losing their heads in this business, passing without due consideration the most ridiculous measures which will cause friction and annoyance, and will not help forward the cause we all have at heart.

If you can do anything to induce Mr. Lloyd George to advocate proceeding upon rational and voluntary lines, instead of trying to Prussianise the people of this country you will be doing a good work, and I am sure that, when all this time of excitement is over, the nation will not forget the debt it owes to you and other women who do not forget all the lessons of our history. At any rate I shall not.

I will certainly look out for you on Tuesday.

I am astounded at the sordidness of the politicians who are playing the game of the Capitalists in this war.

I have been away all the time and so have not been able to make use of time in London. You may rest assured though, that if I can help you, it will be a pleasure, but I just feel it is only plucky, good women like you who can bring home the evil of the sordidness of the employer, who shields himself behind the dead bodies of our boys and degrades the labour and sex of our noble womanhood.

I shall be in London next week and shall be glad to help. Yours all the time in sympathy and may your powers rise to the height of your courage.

BEN TILLETT.

LLOYD GEORGE & EQUAL PAY.

Mr. Lloyd George said in his reply to the W.S.P.U. Deputation on Saturday:—

With regard to wages, he would only say that, so far as piecework was concerned, they agreed that women would be paid exactly the same price as men for any piece of work they turned out. That was perfectly fair. Mrs. Pankhurst had asked a little more than that. She wanted the same rate of wages even for time work. All these establishments were going to be under Government control. It was quite impossible for them to do other than assume control of the great establishments for turning out munitions of war. **The Government would see there was no sweated labour.** For some time women would be unskilled, and they could not turn out as much work as men. Therefore they could not give the same time rate, but a piece rate they could give.

"But Mrs. Pankhurst," he continued, "is perfectly right in insisting that whatever the rate of wages should be, it should be a fair rate of wages, and a fixed maximum, which will guarantee that **we shall not utilise the services of women merely to get cheap labour.**

OUR REPLY to LLOYD GEORGE.

On July 13th, Mr. Lloyd George wrote declining to receive our deputation on the ground that "no good purpose would be served" by his doing so. We replied on the 14th, again urging him to receive us.

On July 19th, in view of his reply to the Saturday deputation, we wrote:

Sir,—Your reply to the deputation is highly unsatisfactory, because, on the Government's behalf, you still refuse to ensure to women the same pay as the men whom they may replace, except when the women are employed on piece work rates. The women are *not* being employed on piece work rates, but on time rates, and therefore safeguards in regard to piece work rates do not apply to them. In the case of the unskilled man, provision is made that he shall receive the same rates, whether by time or piece, as the skilled man whom he may replace.

You say that the women are not yet trained, but you do not give any promise that they are to be put on piece work rates after a definite time has elapsed.

You say that the Government will see to it that there shall be "no sweating" and that the wages paid to women in munition factories shall be "fair." (I see that you say nothing about a fair minimum wage on other Government work where gross sweating prevails).

But what do you mean by fair wages? Do you mean the 3½d. and 2½d. an hour that the Wages Boards have fixed, slightly to improve conditions in the notoriously sweated trades?

The work that the women are asked to do in the munition factories has been one of the better paid trades for men. Are women to receive only the sweated Wages Board rates for it?

At Vickers in Sheffield the women are paid from 8s. to 14s. a week. At Vickers in Erith even the middle-class women, who are already being trained there, are to receive only 15s. 6d. for a 54 hour week.

The Government has refused to interfere with the law of supply and demand where the buying and selling of food is concerned. Under that law, cruel and hard as it is, the high cost of living would be neutralised to a certain extent by rising wages, procured through the efforts of the workers to save themselves from starvation, and by the tendency towards a shortage of labour which the war will create.

The Government refuses to interfere with the law of supply and demand in keeping down high prices, but by compulsory arbitration and forced labour, it nullifies the law of supply and demand where wages are concerned. It is a short-sighted policy to starve the people.

In view of these facts I again call on you to receive the deputation of East London workers that is marching to see you on Tuesday night.

Whether you receive the deputation or not, other Members of Parliament will come out to meet them, but we ask that you will act fairly and listen to what the deputation has to say.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

On learning that Mr. Lloyd George had left for Wales, Miss Pankhurst wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to appoint another Member of the Government to receive the deputation.

Dr. Addison offered to receive the Deputation on Tuesday night, but it was decided to wait until we could see a Cabinet Minister.

ANOTHER 'PRACTICAL' SCHEME

At Erith, arrangements have been made with Messrs. Vickers to train a volunteer band of educated women of the leisured classes with the object of "relieving the usual factory workers at the week-ends." The period of training will last three weeks, during which time the volunteers will reside in a charming house standing in its own grounds, that has been set apart for them rent free, at Erith. Work began on Monday, July 19th, and is to be paid for at the rate of 15s. 6d. to 19s. per week of six eight hour days or 9½ hours on maxim belt work.

Those who volunteered must agree to take Saturday and Sunday work for not less than six months. After each batch of workers has been trained, the week-end relief work will be entered on.

On Sunday afternoon when I visited Erith, I chanced to meet many ladies who came to have their names entered as volunteers for this scheme. I had expected to see girls, but those I saw were ladies of middle age, quite full of enthusiasm at the idea that they were going to be useful to the nation, and—as they think—to their poorer hardworked sisters; for the idea, as Mrs. Cowan, the prime mover of the scheme impressed on me, is to relieve the general staff of working women from working during the week ends, and to give them a rest from the great strain caused by extra war-work.

Surely this plan is, like so many others, rushed into without knowing both sides of the question. Why has no wealthy lady thought out a scheme to provide a residence in Erith for week-end working-women? Why must the leisured woman, who motors to her job, work for pay, whilst every day I meet both men and women who complain that they cannot get work? Only when the numbers of those who are dependent on their earnings are exhausted should schemes such as these be resorted to.

There are numbers of East End women who are unemployed or under employed, who would welcome a week-end at Erith, just as one of these ladies would a trip to the mountains or the sea-side!

The same mistake is being made all along the line, the intentions may be of the noblest, but ignorance of the working class world causes injustice to the workers.—Wholesale registration is the fashion now—well, let *such good* intentions be registered—and then let us have a committee of the working class consulted before further harm is done.

But again, why should any women be employed to do munition work at the rate of 15s. 6d. a week? The lending of this house rent free, for the middle-class women workers, is an admission that they cannot live on 15s. 6d. And the middle-class women are expected to pay the whole of the 15s. 6d. for their board alone, providing their own clothes, blankets, bed-linen, towels, soap and table-napkins out of the private incomes that they are assumed to possess.

One pound a week should be the lowest minimum wage paid to an adult worker for unskilled work, and munition work is by no means unskilled.

The week end workers are not working only at the week ends during their training, and we feel sure that after their training is complete, it will be found that if they are to render effective service, they must do more than week end work.

Working women will be interested to see the instructions issued to those who are to be trained at Lesney House:—

Each worker will be required to bring the following articles, each article distinctly marked with her own name, for *personal* use in the house during the period of training:—

Two blankets for a single bed; four sheets; four table-napkins and ring; three pillow cases; six face towels; toilet soap.

For use in factory:—

Washing blouses; short skirt; boots (low heeled), standing is tiring and boots give support; butcher blue overalls; headgear (close fitting cap of dust-proof material); strong chamois leather gloves, large size.

Waterproof coat, and a bicycle if she wants.

Workers are requested to bring only the necessary personal luggage, no evening dresses.

In Coventry, the Hillman Motor Co. has opened a factory for teaching "ladies with a few hours leisure" to make shells. There will be room in the factory for 120 workers, and "by their united efforts" the *Midland Daily Telegraph* reports "it is hoped that the minimum weekly output will be 120 shells," that means one shell per worker, per week. The factory is said to be "well ventilated and spotlessly clean."

Those who spend their leisure hours in this way, must not imagine that they have learnt anything at all in regard to the ordinary conditions of factory life and work.

This is shell making as a sport, not as a trade. For future generations the story of this present day sport will make very ghastly reading!

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Very successful meetings held all over the district to work up Demonstration, and a record sale of *Dreadnoughts*.

Now Demonstration is over, our ordinary meetings will be resumed. Don't forget the Tuesday afternoon meeting at 3, in the Women's Hall. Outing on Sunday was much enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all who helped to work up our Demonstration. Miss Gallop, Miss Nellie Manicom and Miss Bailey did chalking round the House of Commons on several nights, for which we thank them.

***Dreadnought* sales, week ending July 17th—1,064. Miss O'Brien 300, Mrs. Crabb 128, Mrs. Farrall 25. Special Meetings 580. Well done! Bow has passed its 1,000!**

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Miss Fedden spoke on Thursday and was very much liked, all present expressing the wish that she would pay us another visit. We were sorry that so few Bromley members were with us at Richmond on Sunday last, as we are sure they would have enjoyed themselves immensely, the weather being all that could be desired, and everything going off splendidly.

We hope to see a good muster at our next weekly meeting; we really should have more people there, as Bromley has quite a lot of members, and if each would only bring one friend with them, we should have to hold an overflow meeting outside, so will you all do the best you can to get a crowd next week?

***Dreadnoughts* sold—44.**

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Organiser: Mrs. Drake.

Open-air meetings all the week have been very good indeed, and members are thanked for supporting. It should not be difficult for them to take the chair occasionally after this experience, or even to speak for a short time.

On Friday afternoon, Miss Smyth was our speaker, and explained the object of the Demonstration. The women well understood that prices and profits want controlling. Our Tuesday evening meeting will be held again on July 27th, when Mr. C. Gray will be the speaker. Members wishing to join the savings club may do so at this meeting. These Tuesday meetings will be regular again, they have been missed twice for the Demonstration. The club is also open on Wednesday, from 8 to 10 p.m., when dancing is practised. All welcome. We have been too busy to remind members of their July subscriptions, but we shall be very pleased to receive them. Do not let us get slack about these. It is by paying our subscriptions that we make the Federation our own, and we *must* do *our* share! This branch was well represented at Richmond, where everyone had a most enjoyable time.

Collections — Mrs. Bird 8s. 5½d., at Green's, Mrs. Drake 5s. 4d., at Cubitt Town, Poplar Meetings 3s. 8½d.

Papers sold week ending July 17th—307. Distributed 500. These are thanked for selling—Miss M. Brown 32, Miss Norrington 42, Mrs. Schlette 41, Miss T. Barker and Miss P. Lagading 24, Miss Smyth 22.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 Dalston Lane
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

We were pleased to see so many members support the meeting at Lesbia Road, last Monday evening. Papers sold—25.

Mrs. McLeod was our speaker last Tuesday afternoon, and she expressed a wish to come again. We all hope that it will be soon.

A splendid crowd gathered to hear Dr. Tchaykovsky at the corner of Amhurst Road, and Dalston Lane, last Thursday evening; and, as a result, three people from the open-air meeting came into the office to hear more about our work. Miss Feek gave a most interesting address, and we were sorry that it had to be short, as another meeting had to be held at Well Street, and we were all anxious to support Dr. Tchaykovsky and Miss Smyth there.

In spite of the rain last Saturday, Mrs. Fix and Miss Bennett helped by collecting and selling. We intend to have a fixed pitch every Saturday in Mare Street, but we should like more offers of help. Twenty-four papers were sold, and we are sure we shall do better still when we are better known.

Collected—Miss Bennett £1 6s. 1d., Miss Manicom 11s. Papers sold last week by members—Mrs. Page 26, Miss Sands 16, Mrs. Fix 12. Total papers sold—140. Distributed—80.

The League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' wives and relatives, is preparing a charter to be presented to the War Office, the Admiralty and the Prime Minister.

The new organisation which has been formed in Preston, will join in the deputation. Mrs. Gifford, the Hon. Secretary, writes:—"The women of Preston are just getting their eyes open to the black cloud that is coming over us. Preston is getting very hard hit. The mothers whose sons are prisoners in Germany, are having their allowances stopped, and if a husband is killed, otherwise than in active service, the pay is stopped."

ONE POINT GAINED.

The Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic) has issued a drastic order to restrict the sale and supply of drink in Newhaven, Sussex. Hours of sale are confined to:

Week-days—	Sundays—
12 noon—2.30 p.m.	12.30—2.30 p.m.
6 p.m.—8 p.m.	6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Disobedience to this order will be punished by imprisonment for six months with hard labour, or a fine of £100.

We are glad to see that in making these present regulations the authorities have abandoned the policy of discriminating against women and have made the orders apply to all alike.

This is due to the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, the Women's Freedom League, the United Suffragists, the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, and others who have kept the Suffrage flag flying during the war, and who protested effectively against the attempt to revive the C. D. Acts which was made some time ago.

The Joint Social on Saturday, July 10th, which was organised by the Bow Branch of the E.L.F.S. and the R.S.P.U., to raise money for the Babies' Milk Fund, was a great success. The most amusing sketch, "Mechanical Jane," which was played for us by Miss Morgan Brown and her friends, and the songs in English and French, by Miss Espagne, by the Bow Concert Party, and Miss Day were much appreciated. A charming basket of flowers was presented to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst by the little Misses Mitchell and Knudson, whilst Mr. George Lansbury made an appropriate speech. Dancing lasted till mid-night, when the audience departed well pleased with their most enjoyable evening, and with the knowledge that they had added substantially to the fund.

On Tuesday afternoon, 6th July, the New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage, arranged a meeting at the Knightsbridge Hotel, for an exhibition of garments sent by the members of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, for those in distress in this country. Miss Newcomb, the Hon. Secretary, read a most interesting report, showing the ready and generous response to her appeal, in food, garments and money, which had come from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and S. Africa. Amongst other Societies the E.L.F.S. have to thank the B.D.W.S.U. for many gifts, including 15 cases from S. Africa, 23 from Tasmania, several from Manitoba and two from New Zealand, besides gifts of money. The beautiful clothing exhibited was distributed in sacksful to a number of societies. Miss Newcomb and Miss Hodge are to be congratulated on the great sucess of their efforts.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.—Miss A. Ball 10.0, Mrs. Gibson 10.0, Miss Anderson 10.0, Mrs. Garner 7.6, Mr. Gore-Browne (monthly) 4.0, Collection Poplar 3.3½, Collections Hackney 3.0, Mrs. Eden 2.6, Mrs. Simpson 2.6, Collections Canning Town 2.1, Anon—per Miss Gore-Browne 2.0, Mrs. Hutty 1.0, Mrs. Crabb (for Dreadnought posters) 1.0.

For Milk and General Distress.—Miss E. Beck 5.0.0, Miss Earle 5.0.0, L. Sutro, Esq., per Mrs. Willock 3.3.0, Mrs. Digby Maitland 2.4.6, Mrs. Ivory 2.0.0, Toolroom, etc.—London Small Arms 1.14.3, Miss Napier 1.0.0, Mrs. Garner 1.0.0, Staff at Monteith Road School per Mrs. Rawlings 16.0, Mrs. Crichton 10.6, Mrs. Bevan (monthly) 10.0, Miss E. M. Brett 10.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Anon—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Anon 10.0, Dr. Edith Young 7.6, Miss N. M. Tew 7.6, Miss C. Hopkins (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. E. M. Morrison 5.0, Mrs. Grieve 5.0, Mrs. Oliveira 5.0, Miss H. M. Harrison 4.0, West Adams 3.6, Miss M. L. Clark 2.6, Anon—Herne Hill 2.6, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Mr. Monty 2.0, "Boots" 1.6, Miss P. Osman 1.0, Two friends in Hyde Park per Mrs. Walker 0.9.

Collections.—Miss Bennett 1.6.1, Mrs. Bird 8.5½, Miss Manicom 11.0, Mrs. Drake 5.4, Miss O'Brien 5.5½, Poplar 3.8½, Bromley 2.6½, Mrs. Mears 2.2½, Mrs. Page 1.6, Farthings—Miss Davidson 0.6½, Mrs. Walters 0.6.

Clothing, Etc.—Mrs. Leo Myers, Mrs. Whitehouse, Anon (flowers), Miss Francis Murray, Anon, Miss Davidson, Miss Lowy, Anon (flowers), Mrs. L. F. Whitlaw, Anon, Miss M. Fowle, Anon, Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. O. B. Powell (eggs), Greystoke Place Training College.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMY.

It is announced that the new Committee on economy will include the Chancellor of the Exchequer (chairman of the committee), Mr. Edwin Montagu, also representing the Treasury, representatives of other Government departments, and various peers, members of the House of Commons, financiers, and business men. It will inquire into the business side of all Government activities.

We consider that on any committee on "Economy" the presence of women is essential, but the Government that loudly calls for the "*service*" of women, refuses to allow them to "*serve*" here.

This Committee will inquire into the business side of all Government activities, except those relating to the War Office and Admiralty. Yet those are just the departments where waste and jobbery are most rampant, those are the departments where the money is being spent!

Those who have been invited to serve on the Committee are:—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (chairman), the Financial Secretary to the Treasurer (Mr. Montagu), Viscount Midleton, Mr. H. T. Baker, M.P., Sir L. Chiozza Money, M.P., Mr. J. M. Mason, M.P., Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Sir Gilbert Claughton, Mr. Gaspard Farrer, and Mr. Harold Cox.

Remembering his declaration that the late Liberal Government introduced too many social reforms, and his special objection to Old Age Pensions, we view a committee on economy which includes Lord Midleton with consternation.

Sir Henry Craik drew attention in the House of Commons to the expenditure incurred by the Welsh Church Commission, stating that the Chairman, in addition to a salary of £1,360, is to draw £1,800 from funds of the Welsh Church. The Home Secretary evaded an explanation by asking notice of the question. Is not this a case for the Committee on retrenchment?"

The *Daily Chronicle* reports wholesale reductions in the L.C.C.'s economy. The Public Health Committee proposes to reduce the expenditure on the treatment of tuberculosis by £7,000; other proposed reductions include the Education Committee by £91,865, the Housing of the Working Classes Committee by £2,100. At a time like the present when the fittest of our nation are being killed and wounded, public authorities should consider the great danger of helping to still further undermine the strength of the nation. Health, education, housing, are items that should always be the last to be cut down.

On July 15th in the House of Commons, Mr. Jowett asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the leaflet advising economy in food had been sent to Park Lane and all large houses and mansions, as well as to the poor. Mr. McKenna replied evasively, but the impression left by his words was that only the working classes had been lectured.

It is stated that War bonuses and increases in wages taking effect in June amounted to £20,000 per week, and were shared by 180,000 workers. This merely shows a weekly increase of 2s. 2¾d. per worker, to a fortunate 180,000 out of the millions of workers, who have received no increase to help them to meet the higher cost of living.

Mr. O'Grady in the House of Commons on July 19th, drew attention to the fact that whilst some men are working overtime at munition factories, unemployment of men in the same trades continues as bad as ever! Also that at Messrs. Thomas Firth and Sons, Sheffield, moulders in possession of certificates that they are required for the production of ordnance war material are being dismissed.

To both important facts Dr. Addison vaguely stated "enquiries would be made"!

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

Before you fill up the National Register Form, be sure that you understand it. Remember that it is probably the first step towards compulsory industrial and military service.

Consider carefully *whether you believe in these things.*

Do you believe in compulsory industrial service? Even in Prussia they have not got that, though they have conscription for military purposes,

Do you believe in compulsory military service? Under it however deeply and conscientiously a man may believe it wrong to fight, he may be compelled to do it.

If, being a woman, you do not believe in conscription, remember that compulsory service in industry is the woman's side of conscription.

You must consider these things very carefully before you sign the Register paper.

If you decide that you can conscientiously sign the Register paper—think again.

Before you fill up Question 9, stating that you are willing to undertake Government work:—

Remember that you will be entering into an agreement to go to work any time you are called upon, anywhere you are told, and that unless you carry out your agreement you can be sent to prison.

Once you have said you are willing to do Government work, *unless an undertaking to the contrary can be obtained from the Government,*

You may be forced to work for sweated wages.

You may be forced to blackleg other workers by working for a lower wage than that usually paid.

You may be called in to force the workers already employed at any factory to accept lower wages.

Your freedom of action will be gone. You will not be able to demand higher wages, or to leave and go to another factory.

Remember that doing "Government work" does not mean working direct for the Government, but for a private manufacturer, who sells goods to the Government, and usually charges the Government a very high price.

Therefore refuse to agree to do Government work without safeguards.

In the House of Commons on July 13th, Sir Ryland Adkins drew the attention of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the fact that the Parliamentary and Local Government Registers would probably not be completed by the 31st December, 1915; owing to the reduction in the staffs of County Councils and of printers through enlistment, and also on account of the scarcity of paper.

How then is the National Register to be completed in about four weeks? We cannot understand it.

At a meeting of the West Riding County Council, Alderman Ben Turner said: "if there is a real patriotic feeling that women should go into the fields to work, they should be paid the same wages as men for doing the same work. If not, the feeling cannot be fairly described as patriotic."

At Guildford Police Court, a poor woman was punished for receiving some meat that a soldier gave her saying that it was to be thrown away to rot. A member of the Godalming Town Council was fined £15 for receiving from a sergeant-major 28 pairs of new boots, 175 pairs of second-hand boots, 12 pairs of khaki trousers, and 99 pairs of riding breeches.

Delicate Girl, recently from hospital, is anxious to secure light work.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd. T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E. and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their Offices, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.